



## ***RHODE ISLAND STATE POLICE***

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August 9, 2002

Dear Chief,

Since 1969, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) summary-based program has been providing information about crime and arrest activities by local and state law enforcement agencies.

Recognizing the need for a *NEW* program, we are pleased to announce that we are enhancing the UCR Program to meet the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) standards and guidelines provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.









The way crime is counted is changing in fundamental respects. It is shifting from aggregate reporting of summary crime and arrest statistics to detailed reporting of crime activities at the incident level. Incident based reporting (IBR) promises significantly richer data regarding the nature of crime, and will greatly expand our view of crime and arrest activities.

In the UCR summary-based program, offense information is collected only on the eight index offenses and even among these offenses, reporting provisions of the program mask or obscure crime statistics. NIBRS, collects offense and arrest data on 22 crime categories, spanning 46 offenses, and additional offenses for which only arrest information is reported (see enclosed schematic).

Currently, over 33 Rhode Island local law enforcement agencies have a Records Management System (RMS) that possesses the capability to generate incident based data, leaving only a small number of agencies who have expressed a strong interest in participating. A RMS software application that is NIBRS compliant has the ability to generate electronic IBR data for submission to the Rhode Island State Police.

The method of generating IBR data will vary depending on the software application. It is recommended you contact your software vendor to obtain instructions on exporting IBR data from your RMS software.

Benefits include:

-  *Eliminate duplicate entry of information, which will increase productivity and will offer a higher efficiency level*
-  *Understandable information - will provide powerful relational ad hoc query and report generation capabilities*
-  *Enforce a reporting structure and data element coding scheme, while meeting national standards and guidelines*
-  *Will ensure more accurate reporting than with paper methods, due the numerous error check and validation routines*
-  *Unlimited reporting - including large quantities of vital data that could not be gathered or processed manually*
-  *Faster information- eliminate delays and provide immediate access when applying for grants*
-  *Interconnected information - communicating with other crime information databases*
-  *On-going enhancements make NIBRS upwardly mobile*

We request your support by authorizing the «dept» police department RMS/UCR Manager to generate and submit IBR data to the Rhode Island State Police. Data should be sent on a diskette and mailed with the summary-based packet. Eight (8) law enforcement agencies are already contributing IBR data; namely, Central Falls, Coventry, East Greenwich, Glocester, Narragansett, Smithfield, Warren, and Woonsocket. Our goal is to have 100% participation and to meet the national incident based standards with less than a four (4) percent error rate.

Error checking can be time consuming and is an important phase of this process; therefore, it is necessary that ample time and inter-office planning is allocated for validating all incident cases in the RMS system. During the testing and debugging process, the State Police will need both IBR data on a diskette and a hardcopy of the summary-based data.

If you have any questions regarding this notification, please do not hesitate to call. We look forward to working with you on this aggressive campaign to implement an Incident Based Reporting System. Thank you for your continued support in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Sincerely,

The State UCR Program